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deal of talk and bargaining were going forward in the presence chamber for things wanted from our ship. When these important affairs were settled, my husband joined us, and rice, fresh eggs, and coffee, were placed on the table, and we managed to make a very good breakfast, after which, we took our leave of the shrewd and merry old king, and, according to a promise we had made, proceeded to the residence of the Prince of Wales, where we were to pass the morning, until the bargain that had been concluded was executed.

As we walked along I heard from one of the huts a buzzing, humming noise, like a set of school-boys at their tasks; I popped my head in, and found I was not mistaken, and, from the glance I had of the school-master, I was sure he was a European; but we were so hurried along, on account of the intense heat, that I had no time for further observation. The residence of the Prince of Wales, I was gratified by remarking, evidently shewed the improvement of the rising generation; it had a cheerful verandah, and two or three little rooms behind, which were airy and clean. The walls of the verandah were entirely covered with pictures, prints, wood-cuts, &c., with a number of little common looking glasses, children's toys, and beads. After we had taken off our bonnets, and rested and fanned ourselves until we were as cool as we could be in a shade where the heat was at least at 96° Fahr., we accepted the prince's proposal to introduce us to his wife, and accompanied him into a back apartment, very superior in all respects to that of the queen: a curtain that was suspended in the centre was looped up, and behind it sat the princess on a low couch, *à la Turque*. She was young, and near her first *accouchement*—more animated, but not so pretty, as her sisters-in-law. An old woman was seated on the floor, opposite the couch, who we understood was her mother, and who seemed wrapped up in the contemplation of her daughter's grandeur. She was not, however, grand enough to satisfy her husband, who whispered something to her, on which she reluctantly pointed to a bundle on a shelf behind her; this he took down, and, opening it, threw a shawl over her, which, I suppose, he considered richer than the one she had on, and, having laid another on the couch, put back the bundle and left us. As soon as he was gone, she spoke to her mother and smiled a little, as if she were amused at what he had done; she then turned to us with some attention and curiosity, and touched and examined the materials of our dresses; but as we could do nothing but stare and smile at one another, I was not sorry when his Royal Highness returned. As he appeared the most civilized of their community, I ventured to ask him whether the princess would not prefer sitting out with us in the verandah. He smiled, and shook his head. "Not to day, lady, too much stranger." He then inquired what we called that relationship that would exist between his father, the king, and the child that was expected. I explained to him the terms grandson, granddaughter, grandchild, grandchildren, which he quickly understood and repeated with a good accent. We soon took our leave, and returned to the verandah.

The island of Joanna, which, I believe, is about the size of that of Madeira, is very beautiful and fertile: a wild and luxuriant vegetation covers its surface, undulating with hill and dale to the very margin of the sea; towards the interior it is mountainous. Every thing that has yet been tried thrives exceedingly well, not even excepting *cotton*; of coffee there is abundance. The inhabitants themselves are eager for improvement, and very capable of it; and their veneration for the English is so great that I am sure with a little management, we might effect any change we judged proper.

When the breeze sprung up we took leave of Joanna, her monarch, and his court. As the island faded on our view, I could scarcely believe that what I had witnessed was *real life*. If, reader, you have ever had the luxury of sitting out a solemn play by strolling actors in a barn, with their robes and their rags, their tinsel, and poverty, their assumed dignity and inexorable gravity, you will be able to form a just idea of my impression—only that yours was produced by representation, and mine by reality. *Amulet.*

## PEARL FISHING.

Extract of a letter from Sir Robert Redding, F. R. S., concerning the pearl-fishing in the north of Ireland:—

"Dublin, 13th October, 1688.

"The manner of their fishing is not extraordinary; the poor people in the warm months, before the harvest is ripe, whilst the rivers are low and clear, go into the water; some with their toes, some with wooden tongs, and some by putting a sharpened stick into the opening of the shell, take them up; and, although by common estimate, not above one shell in a hundred may have a pearl, and of these pearls not above one in a hundred be tolerably clear, yet a vast number of fair merchantable pearls, and too good for the apothecary, are offered to sale by these people every summer assize. Some gentlemen of the country make good advantage thereof: and myself while there saw one pearl bought for fifty shillings that weighed thirty-six carats, and was valued at forty pounds; and had it been as clear as some others produced therewith, would certainly have been very valuable. Every body abounds with stories of the good pennyworths of the country, but I will add but one more. A miller took a pearl which he sold for four pounds ten shillings, to a man that sold it for ten pounds, who sold it to the late Lady Glenanly for thirty pounds, with whom I saw it in a necklace; she refused eighty pounds for it from the late Duchess of Ormond."

He mentions that he sent with the letter a few pearls taken in the river near Omagh; also, that there are four rivers abounding with the fish, that empty themselves into Lough Foyle; also, that there are other rivers in the County *Dunnagall*, a river near Dundalk, the *Shure*, running by Waterford, and Lough Lean in Kerry, which afford like fish.

## CHARLES THE SIXTH, KING OF FRANCE.

Cards were invented by Jacques Gringoreur, a painter at Paris, in the reign of Charles the Sixth, King of France, to amuse that prince, who was occasionally insane. Piquet was the first game played. The ace, named from the Latin word *As*, which signifies, *generally*, wealth. Spades and diamonds mean arms; the heavy arrows formerly shot from cross-bows, being shaped like the diamonds in cards. Hearts mean courage. Clubs represented trefoil, an herb that grows in meadows; this was to imply that a general should never encamp without good opportunities for forage. The kings, originally, were portraits of David, son of Jesse; Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, and Charlemagne; each with his esquire, from ecuyer, called in the middle ages, valet, or knave, titles in those days considered as *honourable*. Judith, queen of hearts, was designed as a picture of the lovely Isabeau de Barriere wife of Charles the Sixth. Argine, the queen of clubs, is an anagram, formed of regina, and was a representation of Mary of Anjou, wife of Charles the Seventh of France. The queen of diamonds, under the name of Rachel, was Agnes de Soreille, the mistress of that prince; and the queen of Spades, under the semblance of Minerva, was designed as a picture of Joan d'Arc. The commencement of the insanity of Charles the Sixth is thus related. That monarch was seized with a slow fever at Mans; on his march to attack the Duke of Brittany, his impatience to proceed induced him to resist the advice of his physicians, and to continue his march. As he passed through a forest between Mans and La Fleche, in the heat of the day, the bridle of his horse was suddenly seized by a man in wretched apparel, black and hideous; who exclaimed, "my king, where are you going? you are betrayed!" and then instantly disappeared. At that moment, a page who carried the king's lance, and who, under the pressure of fatigue, had fallen asleep, let fall the lance on a helmet which another page carried before him. This noise, with the sudden appearance and exclamation of the man, concurred to produce an immediate and fatal effect on the king's imagination. He drew his sword, and struck furiously on every side; three persons, beside the page who dropped his lance, were the victims of his frenzy: at length the king was disarmed and secured. The violence of the effort had exhausted his strength; and he was conveyed, senseless and motionless,